

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for emergency power shutoff of a power tool, comprising:
actuating a foot pedal or a wearable switch;
generating a signal as a result of the actuation;
transmitting the signal as a radio frequency signal;
receiving the radio frequency signal; and
shutting off power to a power tool in response to the received radio frequency signal.
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising encoding the signal between the steps of generating the signal and transmitting the signal.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein a foot pedal is actuated.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the switch is worn by an operator of a power tool while operating a power tool.
5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the switch is worn on a wristband.
6. The method of Claim 4, wherein the switch is worn at a waist of an operator.
7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising adjusting a characteristic of the radio frequency signal.
8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the characteristic is a duration of the radio frequency signal.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing an alert when a power supply coupled to the switch falls below a predetermined voltage threshold.
10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the alert is an indicator light housed with the switch.
11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the alert is a light external to a housing containing the switch.
12. The method of Claim 9, wherein the alert causes a housing containing the switch to vibrate.

13. A system for providing an emergency power cut off to a power tool, comprising:

a power tool;

a work platform to which is mounted the power tool;

a receptacle mounted to the work platform for receiving power; and

an actuator device that transmits a radio frequency signal which causes power to be cut off from the power tool.

14. The system of Claim 13, further comprising a receiver device that is capable of causing power to be cut off to the power tool when the radio frequency signal for which causes power to be cut off is received.

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the receiver device plugs into a power outlet and a power cord plugs into the receiver device and the receptacle.

16. The system of Claim 14, wherein the receiver device plugs into the receptacle and a power cord plugs into the receiver device and a power outlet.

17. The system of Claim 14, further comprising a power box mounted on the work platform, power being transmitted from the receptacle to the power tool through the power box.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the receiver device is contained within the power box.

19. A method for wirelessly controlling power supplied to a power tool, comprising:
pressing against an actuator of a switch;
generating a wireless signal in response to the pressing;
propagating the wireless signal across a medium;
interpreting the wireless signal; and
stopping power from being supplied to a power tool in response to the interpreting.
20. The method of Claim 19, further comprising generating a control signal in response to the interpreting the wireless signal, the control signal being used to stop power from being supplied to the power tool.
21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the control signal is latched.
22. The method of Claim 21, further comprising manually releasing the control signal to reestablish power to the power tool.
23. The method of Claim 20, wherein the control signal has a presettable duration.
24. The method of Claim 19, the method having a latch mode and a momentary mode.
25. The method of Claim 19, wherein the wireless signal is able to address a specific power tool.
26. The method of Claim 19, wherein the wireless signal is a radio frequency signal.

- 27. The method of Claim 19, wherein the wireless signal is an infrared signal.
- 28. The method of Claim 19, wherein the wireless signal is an acoustic signal.
- 29. The method of Claim 19, wherein the switch is contained within a housing worn on an operator's head.
- 30. The method of Claim 19, wherein the switch is incorporated in an operator's eye wear or goggles.
- 31. The method of Claim 19, wherein the switch is portable.
- 32. The method of Claim 19, wherein the switch is contained with a wearable housing.

33. A system for stopping power supplied to a power tool in an emergency, comprising:

a remote control issuing a wireless command signal upon activation of a switch by an operator;

a receiver that receives the wireless command signal and transmits an electrical signal corresponding to the wireless command signal through an electrical conductor; and

a controller that receives electrical signal and stops power from being supplied to the power tool in response to the received electrical signal.

34. The system of Claim 33, wherein the remote control is worn by an operator and includes a sensor that detects an upright position of the operator, the wireless command signal being issued when the sensor determines operator is not in a substantially upright position.

35. The system of Claim 33, wherein the remote control is a foot pedal.

36. The system of Claim 33, wherein the remote control is portable.

37. The system of Claim 33, wherein the receiver and controller are housed together.

38. The system of Claim 33, wherein the receiver and controller are housed separately.